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I N T E R I M

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1939.

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BY A. G. GLASS, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Gentlemen,

The Ministry of Health (Circular 2067) have informed local authorities that the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1939 should be cut down to the minimum, and that only urgent matters should be dealt with. The full report will be retained in manuscript in the office, and may be printed at a subsequent date.

This present Interim Report therefore is a mere skeleton outline of the work of the year. Its delay in publication is due to the fact that the figures relating to vital statistics were not received from the County till the end of November.

I am happy to say that except for a short period after the outbreak of war, all the medical services have been carried on as before.

The Infantile Mortality Rate of 55 is the lowest ever recorded for the District.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A. G. GLASS.

MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman :

Alderman J. Heathcote.

Vice-Chairman : Alderman S. Taylor, C.C.

Members :

The Mayor (Alderman (Rev.) J. Wilcockson, J.P.)
Councillor A. Hindley.
" H. G. Holland.
" R. H. Rowlands, C.C.
" R. H. Urmson.
" A. H. R. Willis.
" J. W. Bradley.
" T. W. Dawes.
" M. P. McGrath.
" J. Seddon.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

Chairman :

The Mayoress (Mrs. Wilcockson).

Vice-Chairman : Alderman S. Taylor, C.C.

Members :

The Mayor (Alderman (Rev.) J. Wilcockson, J.P).
Councillor Beck.
Alderman Heathcote.
Councillor Helme.
Alderman Jones.
Councillor Kirkman.
" Longworth.
Alderman McManus.
Councillor Seddon.
" Rowlands, C.C.
" Willis.

Co-opted Members

Mrs. Cooke, J.P.
Mrs. Cooper.
Mrs. Jones.
Mrs. Stevenson.
Mrs. Scott.

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STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area = 1504 statute acres.

Population = Census, 1931 ... ... 28,717.
Estimated, 1939 (middle) ... ... For calculating :
Birth Rate 27,740
Death Rate 27,640

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

BIRTHS :

	Total.	Males.	Females.
Legitimate	353	189	164
Illegitimate	7	2	5
Total... ...	360	191	169
Birth-rate per 1,000 population ...	12.9		
Still Births	22	16	6
Rate per 1000 Total Births ...	57		
DEATHS :	351	178	173

Crude Death-rate per 1,000 population 12.6
Adjusted " " " " " 13.6
No. of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth :
From sepsis 1
From other causes.. 3

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age :	Total.	Males.	Females.
Legitimate	20	12	8
Illegitimate...	-	-	-
Infantile Mortality Rate...	55		

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)... 37
Deaths from Measles (all ages).. ... ... Nil.
Deaths from Whooping cough (all ages)... ... ... Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) 1

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1939.

Cancer...	37
Cerebro spinal fever	2
Encephalitis lethargica.	1
Appendicitis	2
Diarrhoea under 2 years.	1
Syphilis	1
Influenza...	7
Tuberculosis of respiratory system..	8
Other tuberculous diseases..	7
Aneurysm	1
Diabetes	5
Cerebral haemorrhage, etc...	38
Heart disease	96
Other circulatory diseases..	16
Bronchitis..	15
Pneumonia (all forms)...	10
Other respiratory diseases..	3
Puerperal sepsis	1
Other puerperal diseases	3
Other diseases of the liver	1
Other digestive diseases	4
Acute and chronic nephritis.	13
Peptic ulcer	1
Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth...	12

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1939 (continued).

Senility...	21
Suicide	3
Other deaths from violence.	10
Other defined diseases.	27
Ill-defined or not known...	5
Total...	351

As in past years, heart disease accounts for the largest number of deaths, namely, 27% of the total. Cancer accounts for 10% of all deaths, and cerebral haemorrhage also claims over 10%.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

No change in personnel.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

(a) General - No change.

(b) Infectious Diseases - No change.

Midwives. - No change.

Laboratory facilities. - No change.

Hospitals for Infectious Diseases.

(1) Smallpox.

Ainsworth Hospital, with whom arrangements have existed for the reception of cases of smallpox, was taken over by the Government for the treatment of cases of minor infectious disease occurring in billeted households for war evacuees. Ainsworth has arranged for any smallpox cases from Farnworth to be admitted to Astley Sanatorium.

(2) Other Infectious Diseases.

On the outbreak of hostilities Ladywell Sanatorium was evacuated, and arrangements had to be hurriedly made elsewhere. Fortunately, the Medical Officer of Bolton was able to admit cases from the district to Hulton Lane.

Ambulance Facilities - As before.

Clinics and Treatment Centres. - As before.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply. - As before.

Drainage and Sewerage. - As before.

Closet Accommodation.

Accommodation at the end of 1939 :-

Number of privy middens...	5
" " closets attached to these middens...	13
" " pail closets	5
" " fresh water closets.	8843
" " waste water closets.	300
" " dry ashpits (excluding middens). ...	Nil.
" " movable ashbins for refuse..	8452
" " houses on water carriage system. ...	8241

Collection and Disposal of House Refuse. - As before.

Tips. - As before.

Smoke Abatement.

During the year the Sanitary Inspectors made 23 observations. There were no contraventions of the byelaw which provides a time concession for the emission of black smoke of 2 minutes in the half-hour.

Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

171 visits were paid during 1939. 13 notices were served for defects, 12 of which were complied with.

Eradication of bed bugs.

Particulars of action taken during the year :-

No. of houses disinfested :-

(a) by Hydrogen Cyanide (carried out by Contractor)

(1) Council houses ... 12
(2) Other houses.. ... 5

(b) Insecticides

(1) Council houses ... -
(2) Other houses.. ... 17

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

There are 11 dairy farms in the district with approximately 240 cows. The farms are inspected at frequent intervals for sanitary defects. They are all provided with dairies which have no communication with other buildings.

Examination of Milk Samples.

28 samples were examined during the year, 8 of which were unsatisfactory as regards bacterial count and bacillus coli. Tubercle bacilli was not found in any of the samples.

(b) Meat.

678 visits were made to slaughterhouses. Total number of carcases examined 2626. Total weight of meat condemned 4816 lbs. (Tubercular meat 4696 lbs. non-tubercular meat 120 lbs.). Food preparing premises were inspected at frequent intervals.

(c) Adulteration of Food.

The County Council are the Authority under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, and samples were taken by the police.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diphtheria.

13 cases of diphtheria belonging to the district were notified during the year, against an average of 38 for the previous 5 years. There were no deaths.

Diphtheria Antitoxin.

Antitoxin is provided by the Council free of charge for patients residing within the district. A supply is always available for medical practitioners, and is supplied in phials of 8,000 units and 1,000 units, the former for curative and the latter for prophylactic purposes.

During 1939 antitoxin to the amount of 184,000 units was issued to medical men.

Active Immunisation against Diphtheria.

An immunisation clinic was held weekly during the year, and much propaganda work was undertaken.

The following table shows the numbers of children who were fully protected during the year :-

Under 1 yr.	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	5-6 yrs.	6-7 yrs.	7-8 yrs.	8-9 yrs.
11	48	23	11	16	7	7	5	5

9-10 yrs.	10-11 yrs.	11-12 yrs.	12-13 yrs.	13-14 yrs.	Over 14	Total.
3	4	2	4	1	1	148

Scarlet fever.

During the year 58 cases were notified, against an average of 98 per year for the previous five years. This disease has become of so mild a character in recent years that many cases go quite unrecognised. There were no deaths.

Pneumonia.

Of the notifiable varieties 26 cases were reported, while the average number during the previous five years has been 97 per year.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

23 cases were notified during the year, only 5 of which belonged to Farnworth.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

There were no cases notified during 1939.

Specimens examined during 1939.

Nature of Specimen.	No.
Swabs (for diphtheria)	63 (13 positive).
Blood (for typhoid)...	2 (negative).

The following is a list of cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1939 :-

Disease.	No.	
Scarlet fever.	58	
Diphtheria.	14	(One of these cases was notified from Townleys Hospital and belonged to Bolton).
Pneumonia :		
Acute primary.	25	
Influenzal.	1	
Puerperal Pyrexia.	23	(Only 5 of these were Farnworth cases, the remainder being notified from Townleys Hospital, and belonging to outside districts).
Erysipelas.	6	
Measles.	2	

Cases removed to hospital from the district :-

Scarlet fever... 32
Diphtheria..... 12

Tuberculosis :- Respiratory..... 14
Non-respiratory... 13

Statement showing treatment received during the year by patients suffering from Tuberculosis who reside in the area.

Number of cases :	Adults.	Children.	Total.
Admitted to Sanatoria	2	1	3
Admitted to Pulmonary Hospitals..	18	-	18
Admitted to General or Special Hospitals. ...	5	3	8
Granted "light" treatment	3	3	6
Granted X-ray examination	82	11	93
Granted Dispensary supervision or Dispensary treatment, with provision of special nourishment.	15	3	18
Granted Dispensary supervision or treatment..	63	9	72
Under supervision on 31st December, 1939. ...	75	14	89
The 89 cases under supervision at the end of the year have been classified as follows :			
Pulmonary	55	4	59
Non-pulmonary	18	10	28
Combined.	2	-	2
Cases taken off the Register as "cured".. ...	9	1	10
Sputum Examinations..			160
Number in which tubercle bacilli were found...			15

National Rat Week.

This was held from November 6th to 11th. By means of advertisements in the local press, and posters, the attention of the public was drawn to the damage and disease caused by rats, and advice given as to their destruction.

Health Week.

This was held from January 30th to February 3rd, 1939.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

1. Health Visiting. - As before.

2. The Welfare Clinic. - As before.

3. Antenatal and Post-natal Clinic.

During the year 29 sessions were held, the Gynaecologist being in attendance.

211 expectant mothers came for consultation and examination, and they made 620 attendances. Of the 211 cases, 49 attended on one occasion only, 49 came twice, 47 three times, 27 four times, 17 five times, 17 six times, 3 seven times, 2 eight times. 101 were expectant for the first time (primiparae). The ages of the primiparae are shown in the following table :-

Under 20.	20-25.	25-30.	30-35.	35-40.	Over 40.
10	41	35	13	2	Nil.

All morbid conditions found on examination were given appropriate treatment.

Confinement History of Patients.

By the end of the year 156 of the patients had been confined. The following table gives particulars regarding the confinements :-

	Primiparae.	Multiparae.
No. confined	71	85
Confinement at home.	38	59
Confinement at Haslam Maternity Home	1	-
Confinement at Townleys Hospital ...	29	22
Confinement at St. Mary's Hospital..	2	1
Confinement at Hope Hospital	1	-
Confinement at Hulton Lane..	-	2
Confinement at Private Home.	-	1
Vertex presentation.	68	74
Breech presentation.	2	5
Other...	1	6
Labour normal...	56	80
Labour normal but prolonged.	6	4
Labour induced..	1	-
Forceps delivery	8	1
Ruptured perineum...	3	-
Condition of mother satisfactory ...	63	76
" " " delayed recovery	8	8
" " " died	-	1
Condition of child :		
Alive and well	59	73
Still-born	4	5
Died within 2 weeks...	3	3
Premature.	2	-
Not satisfactory..	3	4

Sixteen cases attended the post-natal clinic during the year. They received the necessary advice and treatment.

4. Convalescent Homes. - As before.

5. Home Helps.

Eight were supplied during the year.

6. Maternity Cases.

Arrangements exist with Townleys Hospital, whereby any woman can be admitted for her confinement. Payment is made according to her means. 43 cases were admitted to Townleys during the year.

7. Maternal Mortality.

During the year enquiries were made into the deaths of 4 women.

8. Emergency Unit.

In the case of confinement taking place at home, arrangements have been made with St. Mary's Hospitals for an emergency unit to be provided if the patient is so gravely ill that removal to a hospital would be dangerous.

9. Infant Life Protection.

At the end of the year there were only five cases on the Register. They were visited regularly.

10. Dental Treatment.

Dental treatment for expectant and nursing mothers for the year 1939.

No. of mothers referred by M. O. H...	36
No. of mothers treated...	27
No. of attendances...	89
No. of permanent fillings	20
No. of permanent extractions.	156
No. of scalings and polishings...	3
No. of dentures..	10
Other treatment to permanent teeth	1

Dental treatment for pre-school children for the year 1939.

No. of children referred by M. O. H..	41
No. of children treated..	36
No. of attendances...	66
No. of fillings in temporary teeth...	44
No. of temporary extractions.	54
No. of cases given advice	5
Other treatment to temporary teeth...	Nil.

11. Tonsils and Adenoids.

Eight pre-school children had operative treatment at Bolton Royal Infirmary.

12. Minor Ailments.

52 children attended the school clinic during the year, making in all 363 attendances.

13. Orthopaedics.

20 pre-school children attended the Orthopaedic Clinic during the year, and made 63 attendances. 23 surgical appliances, i.e., boots, irons, etc., were supplied through the Clinic. No pre-school children were sent to Biddulph Hospital during 1939.

14. Defective Vision.

9 pre-school children were examined by the School Oculist. In 4 cases suitable glasses were prescribed, whilst in 5 cases other treatment was advised.

15. Medical Officer's Consultations at the Clinic.

The Medical Officer had 731 consultations at the clinic during the year. Defects were treated.

Summary of work done by Maternity and Child Welfare Department in 1939 :-

Visits :-

First Visits...	364
Revisits - under 1 year	1602
1 - 5 years.	2800
Expectant Mothers :-	
First Visits..	109
Revisits..	94
Infectious Diseases	45
Infant Life Protection.	11
Special Visits.	110
Total	5135
Homes - Number visited.	1237

Clinic :-

No. of infants under 12 months.	445
Children between 1 and 5 years.	456
Total attendances of above two groups..	6808
Average attendance per session.	47
Expectant Mothers - Number.	182
" " Attendances	263

Free Supply of Milk, etc. :-

Dried Milk.	3795 lbs.
Cows' Milk.	1012 gallons.
Cod Liver Oil..	177 lbs.

A. G. GLASS.

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